

18. (Currently amended). In a process for protective fabrication of a composite structure to be exposed to seawater environments, the improvement residing ~~in a sequence of steps including~~ performance in sequential order the following steps of: a) forming a barrier; b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof; c) forming a substrate; and d) attaching the barrier to the substrate in underlying relation thereto before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; wherein the barrier is an intumescent mat and the fire resisting agent is a phenolic resin.

19. (Currently amended). In a process for protective fabrication of a composite structure to be exposed to seawater environments, the improvement residing ~~in a sequence of steps including~~ performance in sequential order the following steps of: a) forming a barrier; b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof; c) forming a substrate; and d) attaching the barrier to the substrate in underlying relation thereto before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; wherein said attaching of the barrier to the substrate is performed by providing an adhesive between the barrier and the substrate.

20. (Currently amended). In a process for protective fabrication of a composite structure to be exposed to seawater environments, the improvement residing ~~in a sequence of steps including~~ performance in sequential order the following steps of: a) forming a barrier; b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof; c) forming a substrate; and d) attaching the barrier to the substrate in underlying relation thereto before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; wherein said introducing of the fire resisting agent is performed by infusion thereof into the barrier during said forming of the substrate to effect said attaching of the barrier to the substrate without using an adhesive.